

"And they cried, The Sword of The Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

Office of Publication: 208 South Elm Street, Denton, Texas; Editorial and Executive Office: 145 North Hale Street, Wheaton, Illinois.

An independent Religious Weekly, Standing for the Verbal Inspiration of the Bible, the Deity of Christ, His Blood Atonement, Salvation by Faith, New Testament Soul Winning and the Premillennial Return of Christ. Opposes Modernism, Worldliness, and Formalism

VOLUME X, No. 29

DENTON, TEXAS, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1944

\$1.00 PER YEAR

Prohibition and the War A Converted Warless World Impossible Till Jesus Comes

By REV. SAM MORRIS, D. D.

Of the Voice of Temperance Broadcast, Box 7, Louisville, Ky.
(Address given on the whole Columbia broadcasting system, coast to coast, Sunday, January 16th, the 24th anniversary of nation wide prohibition.)

Howdy Neighbors!
We are happy to speak to you over the Columbia Network on the subject — "Prohibition and the War." If you want a free copy of my talk, address your requests to Sam Morris, Box 7, Louisville, Kentucky.

National Prohibition in America was no overnight affair.

The first American Temperance Society was formed in Saratoga County, New York in 1808. The first National Temperance Convention was held in Philadelphia in 1833. The National Prohibition Party was formed in 1869. The Woman's Christian Temperance Union was organized in 1874. The American Anti-Saloon League was organized in 1893.

Maine was the first State to adopt State-wide Prohibition in 1851. Other States joined the ranks, and by 1916 there were 23 Dry States. Four more came in in 1917 and six more in 1918, making a total of 33 States under Prohibition by State action before National Prohibition.

In May 1917 Congress passed a law prohibiting the sale of alcoholic beverages to all men in military uniform.

On December 22, 1917, Congress submitted the Eighteenth Amendment to the States for their ratification. Only 185,000 American soldiers were in Europe at that time.

A SOLDIER'S IMPRESSION OF THIS PAPER

A pastor, Rev. Wm. H. Schobert, felt impressed to send copies of *The Sword of the Lord* to men from his church now in the service. He sends on to me a quotation from a happy soldier who was blessed by *The Sword of the Lord*. No doubt many, many men in the service would be greatly blessed and helped by *The Sword of the Lord*. Why not subscribe for those who are members of your church now in the service of our armed forces?

The soldier's comment on *The Sword of the Lord* is as follows:

"I can't express in words how much I've enjoyed these papers. I've received many a blessing by reading them. The readings were so interesting I could hardly quit reading until I was through. I read them word for word all through. I want to thank you for sending them. I've been enlightened on several things I wasn't sure on by reading these papers. These sermons by those evangelists and ministers are certainly soul stirring. They have brought me to realize that I'm slipping and that I need to live better. I'm sure I'll be living a better life from now on. You may be several hundred miles away from here but you are doing a work for the Lord right here in our camp. I've let my buddies read them also, and I'm sure they are thinking a little more about their souls also."

The price of *The Sword of the Lord* is \$1 a year. Send subscriptions to *Sword of the Lord* Publishers, 145 N. Hale Street, Wheaton, Illinois.



Dr. Sam Morris

The necessary two-thirds of the States ratified the Eighteenth Amendment in 1919, and it went into effect on January 16, 1920—twenty-four years ago today.

These are indisputable facts of history.

National Prohibition was the natural and inevitable result of over a hundred years of Temperance education, organization, legislation and agitation by good men and women, who were sick at the ravages of rum.

Yet, there are folks who say it was put over by War hysteria "while the boys were away."

It would be as intelligent, and as logical, to say that a farmer grows his hogs, cows, chickens and hay the day he hauls them to market.

RESULT OF REPEAL

We repealed Prohibition in 1933. We have had ten years of re-legalized drink. We know the results.

Dry territory is ruthlessly drenched with Federal sanction.

Beer, wine and whiskey consumption rises in an ever-increasing flood.

FBI records show that drinking drivers have increased every year since 1935, with nearly twice as many, per 100,000 of our population, in 1942 as in 1932, the last year of Prohibition.

They show that arrests for drunkenness among women was drunkenness have increased every year with approximately two and one-half times as many per 100,000 of the population in 1942 as in 1932.

The percentage of arrests for nearly five times as great in 1942 as in 1932, the last year of Prohibition.

Arrests of girls under 21 years of age for drunkenness, vagrancy, disorderly conduct, prostitution and other sex crimes increased 89.5 percent during the first six months of 1943.

Yet, some folks say Prohibition made American women drink.

Twenty-six percent of Federal prisoners were behind bars during Prohibition for liquor law violations; fifty-two percent of them are there today for that offense.

Today the Department of Justice, and a special Senate Committee,

(Continued on page two)

Paul, Peter, James, Jude, Jesus All Say Throughout New Testament That World Will Not Be Converted Before Jesus Comes; That World-Wide Righteousness and Peace and Christianity Are Not to Be Expected Through Human Means; That Christ May Come at Any Moment.

By ROBERT J. WELLS, TH. D.

Pastor, Galilean Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas.

There are a good many people, teachers and preachers included, who believe, teach, and preach that it is absolutely necessary for the world to be converted before the Lord Jesus Christ comes to this earth again. They tell us that the world is to be Christianized, or conquered by Christ through the Church, and the forces of righteousness in the world, and that ultimately sin and evil are to be done away with entirely, thus, bringing in the Kingdom and making ready for the King. They say that through the influence of the Gospel and the Church, the world will get better and better, "wars and rumors of wars" will cease; peace will come into its own; sin, disease and poverty will be abolished, and mankind will attain its ultimate goal of perfection.

In keeping with this rosy picture, these men insist that the program of the Church in our world of today must be concerned with bringing about this dream-world of the future.

The tragedy of it all is, beloved, that there is not a single reference in Scripture that supports the teaching that the world is to be converted before Jesus comes, and it is perfectly obvious to any thinking Christian that it is impossible

to bring in a reign of righteousness, or a condition of perfection in the world until the King Himself comes back to rule and reign in righteousness. It is then and then alone that this old world will know peace and perfection. Again, I repeat, there is not a single reference in Scripture to support this preposterous position, which position you will immediately recognize to be the position of the Post-Millennialist.

Recently while meeting with a committee consisting of a brother pastor and two business men in Dallas, we were discussing this very question, when one of the business men suddenly asked:

"Do you mean to tell me that there are men of real intelligence who teach or even believe that the world is getting better and better?"

We assured him that as much as we regretted to have to admit it, there were.

He replied: "Why, anyone with common sense would know better than that. I thought only crackpots with long hair held such foolish ideas as that."

But again we suggest that it makes little difference one way or the other what men think about this subject, or for that matter,



Dr. Robt. J. Wells

about any other subject. That which is of supreme importance is what the Word of God teaches, and so, let us go to the Word itself. Let us look first of all to the testimony of Paul, and notice that: **I. PAUL TEACHES THAT THE WORLD WILL NOT BE CONVERTED BEFORE JESUS COMES.**

1. *Paul's Warning to the Ephesian Elders:* Notice, first of all, Paul's warning to the elders in Ephesus, as given in Acts 20:28-31:

"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with His own blood."

"For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock."

"Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them."

"Therefore, watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears."

Here is Paul on one of his missionary journeys taking time out to give the Ephesian elders a special message. He begins his admonition by saying, "Take heed!" Why were they to "take heed"? Because after Paul's departure "grievous wolves" would enter in among them, "not sparing the flock." He warned them also that from among their own selves men would arise, "speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them."

That is why he admonished them to "take heed" and to "watch and remember." Is there anything here to indicate that Paul was teaching that the world would get better and better, and that through the energies of these men and of others like them there would come

(Continued on page two)

Pray For Revival Effort at Wheaton College

Wheaton College is a great Christian college, earnestly striving to win students to Christ and train them as strong Christians and useful workers. Twice each year a special period is set apart for evangelistic services. In September the revival services were conducted by Dr. Joe Henry Hankins, of Pine Bluff, Arkansas. The results were blessed. Now comes a letter from Dr. V. Raymond Edman, the beloved president, asking our readers to pray for the next season of evangelistic effort that many may be saved in the large student body and that all, faculty and students, may be revived.

Dr. Edman's letter follows:

"January 10, 1944"

"Dr. John R. Rice
"512 West Franklin
"Wheaton, Illinois,
"My dear Dr. Rice:

"I should greatly appreciate your entering a prayer request into *The Sword of the Lord* for the winter evangelistic services at the College, February 6-13. The Lord's messenger on the occasion will be Reverend Paul S. Rees, D. D., pastor of the Covenant Tabernacle of Minneapolis, Minnesota. God has blessed signally the evangelistic ministry of Dr. Rees, and we are looking forward to a time of soul winning and a deep stirring of God's Spirit. You will be interested to know that the spirit of evangelism brought to us by dear Dr. Hankins in the fall has continued throughout the semester. One after

another of the unsaved students has come to the Saviour, and it has been my privilege to lead a number of these to the Lord in my office.

"You will also be interested in the experience of one of our former students, from whom we just have received word. Quite recently he has been returned to active duty after eight months in the hospital following the campaign on Guadalcanal. Out there in the South Pacific he heard a chaplain present the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. He said to himself, 'It seems to me I know that man.' After the service he made himself acquainted with the chaplain, to confirm his impression that the chaplain indeed was a Wheaton graduate. It turned out that it was William C. Thomas, Wheaton '29. Bill Thomas was paying the piano for the memorable chapel service of February, 1936, when there was a mighty visitation of God's Spirit on Wheaton's campus, such as we had last February. On that day David Welsher came to Christ. Out there in the southwest Pacific Bill Thomas baptized a fellow Wheatonite."

"On occasion folks say to me, 'There are no lasting results of a deep revival movement.' On the contrary, we know that hundreds of lives have never been the same since meeting with God in evangelistic services at the College. Please ask your good people to pray with us for these services."

"Sincerely yours in Christ,"
V. R. Edman.

SUBSCRIBE!

\$1 a year — \$2 for 3 years

145 N. Hale St. Wheaton, Ill.

Prohibition and the War

(Continued from page one)

are both investigating the liquor industry for monopolistic combines, price evasions, ceiling violations, hoarding, black-markets, moonshiners and bootleggers.

Ten years after Prohibition! The leopard has not changed his spots.

He is as wild and vicious as ever.

THE SAME OLD DRINK

They said the old saloon would not come back. So, they changed the name. It is now called a cafe, filling station, drug store, grocery store, night club tavern, hotel bar, cocktail lounge, first chance, last chance, bloody bucket, wagon wheel, tip-top, pea patch, blue moon, silver moon, pale moon, etc.

They changed the name—they didn't change the drink.

The old saloon is not back—the old drink is back.

That's where the trouble lies.

That's what the fight is over.

You may paint a pump-handle until you are black in the face, but it won't change the water in the well. You may change a rattle-snake from his hiding place to your rose bed, but it won't change the poison in his fangs.

You may legalize bootleggers and let them come out of their back-alley prohibition hiding places and sell their wares in cafes, filling stations, swanky hotel bars, night clubs and cocktail lounges—it doesn't change the alcohol they sell the least bit in the world. It is still the same old habit-forming, narcotic, poisonous drug that spawns crime, breeds corruption, begets poverty, fosters vice, wrecks homes, befuddles the brain, weakens the will, and damn the soul.

It is the same old snake.

WAR TIME PROHIBITION

We are at war.

War regulations, restrictions and emergencies make the toleration of this traffic ridiculous in these days of National shortages.

For example—millions of hard-working people are forced by the change to War Time to get up an hour sooner every morning in order to save electricity, but every night, all over the Nation, multiplied thousands of taverns, night clubs, beer bars, roadhouses, honky-tonks and juke joints, with blazing neon signs and bright lights, operate until the wee hours of the morning.

Take another example—

Millions of sober, loyal, patriotic, bond-buying, tax-paying, blood-donating American citizens can't get automobile tires or gasoline for pleasure driving, but thousands of big motor trucks wear out big tires and burn up unlimited quantities of gasoline to provide beer, wine and whiskey for the pleasure of drinking people.

Take another example—

The War Priority Board has called upon the Nation to gather its scrap iron from hedge rows, fence corners, back-alleys, right-of ways and wreck yards, but at the same time it has permitted thousands of tons of pure steel to be made into whiskey barrel hoops and beer bottle caps, which, by no stretch of an honest imagination, can be called necessary to the War effort.

While patriotic citizens saved tin cans, shaving cream and toothpaste tubes, and even tinfoil chewing gum wrappers to provide metal for the weapons of war, thousands of beer haulers were collecting the big No. 10 gallon size heavy cans at cafes, restaurants and hotels. Half of all they collected went to make caps for beer bottles!

What patriotic mockery!

Take another example—

THE SWORD OF THE LORD

Entered as second-class matter, Dec. 26, 1941, at the post office at Denton, Texas, under the Act of March 3, 1897.

EVANGELIST JOHN R. RICE
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

Published weekly at 208 South Elm Street, Denton, Texas. Editorial and Executive Office: 145 North Hale Street, Wheaton, Illinois.

Subscription Price: \$1.00 a year, 3 years, \$2.00.

Canada and Foreign Countries: \$1.50 a year.

While Millions in India and Europe, on starvation, look to us for food following the War, and while farmers here at home can't get food, supplies for horses, cattle, hogs and chickens, the breweries go right on wasting millions of tons of vital grain and other food supplies, making beer.

That's what I am talking about. Look at our transportation congestion. It is one of our biggest bottlenecks. Tank cars, that ought to be transporting gasoline and fuel oil, are employed to haul wine from California around over the Nation to the taverns and cocktail lounges. Hundreds of big freight cars, that ought to be transporting war supplies, are engaged in shipping alcoholic beverages. Thousands of beer trucks, that ought to be hauling the weapons of war, are rumbling up and down our highways, meeting each other, loaded with beer and empty bottles.

Don't talk to me about wild-eyed Prohibition fanaticism! We have a War to win! Take another thing—On week-ends, pay-days and holidays, thousands of war plant employees, that ought to be on the job, are staggering around bleary-eyed, with befuddled brain and with shattered nerves, headaches and hangovers.

They call it "absenteeism." Newspapers report that one War Plant of Detroit, Michigan, had to close down for two whole shifts on Christmas Day, simply because so many of their six thousand workers were drunk.

That's what I am talking about. It is wide-spread all over this Nation, and everybody knows it. A big Allied leader has been quoted as saying, that the recent rail and steel strikes prolonged the War, and will mean the death of additional thousands on the foreign battle fronts.

What about all of this prolific waste, muddled inefficiency, impeded transportation, hindered production, and dissipated energies in the drink shops of this country? If those threatened strikes "comforted" our enemies—and they did—this molly-coddled, petted and pampered drink industry makes them dance with glee.

REJECTION FOR VENEREAL DISEASE

Here is something else—

About a million men have been rejected from armed service because of venereal disease. Most of it came from wild escapades and drunken orgies connected with liquor dives, night clubs, roadhouses, honky-tonks and juke joints.

Millions of other young men, whose praying mothers, church attendance and Christian ideals kept them sober and healthy, are bleeding and dying on world battle-fronts.

That's the contrast between the contributions of the Church and the contribution of the repeal liquor industry in producing "physically fit" manhood to fight in this War.

That's what this fight is all about!

Calling the good Church people, who want wartime prohibition, "wild-eyed" fanatics and "blue-nosed reformers," doesn't meet the issue.

Our boys on world battlefronts need weapons of War that beer, wine, whiskey, "whoopie parties," headaches and hangovers, can't produce.

"THE BLOODY MARNE"

July 14th is French Independence Day. In 1918 French soldiers along the Marne River defenses, protecting Paris in World War One, celebrated the day with excessive drinking. American soldiers fighting with them were prohibited from drinking.

A little after mid-night the zero hour struck. Three hundred thousand and choice German troops of the Royal Prussian Guard, who had been given drinks to increase their courage and make them "tough" stormed Allied positions in surge after surge to deliver a "knockout blow."

To the right and to the left seasoned French soldiers fell back under the withering attack, leaving the American 36th Division ex-

A Converted Warless World Impossible - - -

(Continued from page one)

a day when the whole world would be covered with righteousness? Far be the thought! Paul taught the very opposite. He said:

I know what is going to happen in the future, therefore, watch and remember. Those who are supposed to be numbered among the saints of God will be led away, speaking perverse things, drawing away disciples after them and acting like grievous wolves, not sparing the flock.

History records the accuracy of Paul's predictions concerning the Ephesian church, and it also records with accuracy the downward trend of the human race, and the fact that the world is getting worse and worse instead of better and better.

2. In *Latter Times Men Shall Depart From the Faith*: Let us notice next what Paul has to say to Timothy. Paul took great pride in the young preacher, Timothy. He loved him greatly as his son in the Lord. Among many things Paul had to say to Timothy by way of assistance and instruction, are the words found in I Timothy 4:1:

"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils (lit. demons)."

Here is amazing information. It comes from the Holy Spirit Himself. When shall these things be? "In the latter times. . ." What is to happen? "... some shall depart from the faith." Why? Because, they will give "heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons." And, all of this is to take place "in the latter times. . ." The "latter times" in Paul's epistles have particular reference to the times immediately preceding the Coming of Christ.

You can't get away from these positive statements of Paul! Things are not going to get better and better, but rather, worse and worse. That is the position Paul takes as he instructs his son in the faith. But, perhaps, there are some who say: "That is only one verse. We want more proof than one verse if we are to believe that Paul taught Timothy that the world was not going to be converted before the Coming of Christ." Turn with me, please, to 11 Timothy 3:1-5, where we read; concerning:

3. *The Perilous Times of the Last Days*:

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

"For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholly.

"Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good.

"Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

"Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away."

The Bible teaches that men are to be lovers of themselves and "despisers of those that are good" in the last days. The Post-Millennialists tell us just the opposite. They say that men will all love God and be devoted in their affection one for another because they will all have learned to do good.

posed on both flanks. Hour after hour, dawn turned into day, day darkened into night, and another night and day of the sickening slaughter followed as those green, inexperienced, but sober, American doughboys, who were out-numbered 10 to 1, fought on until Victory came.

They held the line.

They took everything old Kaiser Bill had and littered the battlefield with 60 percent of the Germans left piled in heaps.

It saved the day!

It turned the tide of World War One.

General Pershing decorated them with the inscription, "The Rock of the Marne."

"Lord God of Host, be with us yet, Lest we forget; Lest we forget!" That's what sober soldiers, backed by a sober Nation, did twenty-five years ago.

Prohibition worked. We did it then. Let's do it again!

Paul tells Timothy that in the last days men will have so little of the love of God in their hearts that they will put pleasure in His place! Beloved, I don't have to tell you that this prediction has come to pass. You know that this is true. Every year this characteristic of the "last days" is more descriptive of actual conditions than ever before. Men are getting worse and worse, and we see it on every hand. Our boys and girls in colleges, many of which are sponsored by Post-Millennialists, are drinking, smoking, cursing, and blaspheming God. They are dancing and practicing all kinds of immorality before our very eyes. Never has there been a day when conditions were as bad in this connection as they are at this present time. In the face of all this, how can anyone say that the world is getting better, that righteousness is conquering the earth, and that mankind is being converted to God?

There are those who will say that things aren't really as bad as we picture them to be, and there isn't very much harm in these things men are doing. What's wrong with a little glass of wine, or beer, or even a high ball now and then? You know, young people must have their fun. There are some who actually believe there is no harm in drinking, smoking, dancing, theatres, and the various forms of immorality in which the populace is indulging in these days. I have an answer for all such. Aside from pointing to diseased bodies, broken hearts, blighted and blasted lives, ruined homes, over-crowded jails, insane asylums and wretched and wrecked futures, I call attention to what Paul says about the times in which men shall be "lovers of pleasures." He says that they are *PERILOUS* times! Not good times, but *PERILOUS*! *TRAGIC! EVIL TIMES!*

4. In *the Last Days Men Will Refuse Sound Doctrine*.

Paul knew as I know, and you must know if you are willing to believe God's Word, that nothing will bring an end to the awful sin, immoral living and licentiousness of the "last days," but the coming of the Lord Himself, and so he taught Timothy:

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears:

"And they shall turn their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables" (II Timothy 4:3, 4).

There are many other passages in Paul's Epistles dealing with this subject, but inasmuch as we are trying to get only a bird's eye view of the New Testament teaching as a whole on this subject, we must pass on to consider what some of the other New Testament writers have to say.

II. JAMES CONFIRMS THE TEACHING OF PAUL.

1. *James Warns That the Professing Church Will Be Guilty of Spiritual Adultery*.

"Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God" (James 4:4).

2. In *the Fifth Chapter of the Book of James* we have the pathetic picture where the rich man of the "last days" is warned concerning his attitude and actions, and then coming down to verse seven he speaks to the poor who have been oppressed, saying:

"Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord." (v. 7).

If we are to believe what we read, we are forced to conclude that James teaches that economic conditions are not to get better and better, but rather, that the only solution to the economic difficulties will be the Coming of Christ. There will be a continual struggle between Labor and Capital until Jesus comes. Those who have expected the solution to these problems in the near future must realize that the Word of God which is "eternally settled in the heavens" declares that the solution will not be forthcoming until Jesus comes to settle it in Person.

III. PETER ALSO CONFIRMS THE TESTIMONY OF PAUL.

In II Peter 3:3, 4, we read: "Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, "And saying, Where is the promise of his coming, for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation."

Scoffers in the Last Days!

There shall come, what? Scoffers! And, when this takes place, what does Peter say as to the time? "In the last days!" One would almost think that Peter is here describing many of the religious leaders of our present day. Scoffers! This is exactly what we have on every hand today, men who laugh and ridicule and mock concerning the coming of our Blessed Lord. Peter "hits the nail on the head" in his description of conditions in "the last days" especially, with reference to the attitude on the part of men concerning the Second Coming of Christ.

IV. JUDE AGREES WITH THE TEACHING OF PAUL AND JAMES AND PETER CONCERN- ING THIS.

The little Book of Jude is only twenty-five verses long, but in spite of this fact, it deals in no uncertain terms with the question at hand. Notice verses 3, 4, 17 through 19:

"Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

"For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

"But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ;

"How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.

"These be they who separate themselves, sensual, saving not the Spirit."

In these verses Jude tells us several very important things:

First, we are told that we must "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." We are not to sit on the side lines and let men take away the great truths of God's Word, thus, robbing them of their vitality, their power and blessing. We do not have to remain passive when men pervert the plain teaching of the Bible.

Second, we are given the reason for this statement. Certain men, on the inside of the church will turn the grace of God into lasciviousness, denying the only Lord God, mock concerning the Coming of the Lord, and will be walking after their own ungodly desires, sensual, having not the Spirit.

Third, we are told when these things will take place. "In the last time. . ." (v. 18).

From all of this, and much more that we have not time to consider, we learn that Jude agrees with Paul, Peter and James concerning the fact that the world is not going to get better, and it is not going to be converted before Christ comes again.

V. THE SEVEN CHURCH LET- TERS OF REVELATION REVEAL THE COURSE OF THE PROFESS- ING CHURCH.

(Revelation 2, 3).

1. Ephesus: runs away from its first love.

(Continued on page three)

PROPHECY-WHAT L

by OSWALD J. S.

Dr. Smith's latest book - 190
Sample copy +1.00. The Peoples Church.

A Converted Warless World Impossible --

(Continued from page two)

2. Smyrna: Judaizing teachers bringing in legalism.

3. Pergamos: turns its back on the Hope of the Lord's Return, and becomes a church of state.

4. Thyatira: Idolatry, Judaism, Paganism and Apostate Christianity.

5. Sardis: Great name, but spiritually dead (tied up with the world).

6. Philadelphia: Revival of the old faith, returns to a pure Gospel and the Hope of the return of the Lord. The church of brotherly love.

7. Laodicea: Lukewarm, spued out of the mouth of God. Oh, what a picture we have here concerning the Laodicean church:

"I know thy works, thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

"So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. "Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing: and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

"I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich: and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see" (Rev. 3:15-18).

What a picture of failure and backsliding! Instead of the Church growing and glowing and gaining in its influence in the lives of men and nations down through the centuries, we find an entirely different picture. We have a church that neglects to take advantage of its God-given opportunities, surrenders its distinctiveness for world-conformity, and ends in such putrid insipidity that its own Founder is sickened and nauseated by its lack of flavor.

This doesn't look as though John, the Presbyter, envisioned a glorious church going down the centuries of time from one conquest to another and sweeping everything in its path. In truth, the harmony that exists between Paul, James, Peter, Jude and John concerning the fact that the world is not to be converted before Christ comes, is perfectly amazing.

Oh, that we might carefully meditate on these words of John:

"I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see."

VI. THE TEACHINGS OF CHRIST ARE POSITIVE EVIDENCE THAT THE WORLD WILL NOT BE CONVERTED BEFORE JESUS COMES.

Passing now from the consideration of the writings of the Apostles, men who wrote as they were guided by the Holy Spirit, we would like to spend the rest of our time in a general analysis of the

GOD USES TRACTS—DO YOU?

Gospel tracts gladly sent to all who will prayerfully distribute them.

Write

THE GOSPEL FELLOWSHIP
Box 3, Hutchinson, Kansas

Have You Lost a Loved One?

"Great Questions" answers the BIG QUESTIONS concerning the Great Beyond! Is the future life REAL? Is the Resurrection Body A REAL BODY? Shall we know our loved ones in the future life? etc. This blessed booklet is of vital importance to you, if you've been separated from one who was dear to you. Postpaid, only 5 cents. Free catalogue of 200 Christian Books for every purpose.

Gospel Art Shoppe, Dept. 43, Rowan, Iowa

WHAT LIES AHEAD?

D. J. SMITH, Litt. D.

Book - 190 pages - Cloth \$1.50
People's Church, 100 Bloor St., Toronto, Canada

teachings of Christ concerning this subject.

1. *The Parable of the Sower* — Let us first of all, consider the Parable of the Sower, found in Matthew, chapter thirteen, verse 3:

"Behold, a sower went forth to sow:

"And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the wayside, and the fowls came and devoured them up:

"Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth:

"And when the sun was up, they were scorched: and because they had no root, they withered away.

"And some fell among thorns and the thorns sprung up, and choked them.

"But others fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, and some thirtyfold."

Now, look at verse eighteen, where the Lord's own interpretation of this parable is begun:

"Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower.

"When anyone heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one (the Devil), and catches away that which was sown in his heart. This is he that receiveth seed by the wayside.

"But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it:

"Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for awhile: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.

"He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word: and the care of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.

"But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it: which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

Without question the teaching of Christ in this parable is that during the absence of the Lord following the Ascension, the Gospel would not have a universal acceptance, but would rather receive a comparatively small acceptance, despite the fact that it would have many centuries in which to gain a real footing. Summarizing the teaching of Jesus in these verses we find:

The seed is the Gospel message, sown in the field which is the world. There are various types of ground in this field, the fertile ground, the stony ground, and the thorny ground. The seed falls into the ground, comes up, yields lasting fruit only in the fertile ground, in various degrees, some a little, some more, some abundantly. That is what the Word says. It is evident that only a fractional part, indeed a very small fraction of the seed actually digs into the ground and bears real fruit. The rest is snatched away or destroyed so that it cannot be fruitful. Certainly, it would be impossible to teach from this that the Gospel would have a universally fruitful effect!

This parable also teaches that there would be a trinity of opposition to the Gospel: the world, the flesh, and the Devil. Every preacher is continually fighting these forces. Jesus said that the seed would not always find perfect lodging. Many times it would be only temporary, and sometimes it would not find lodging at all. That is what Jesus taught! Since this parable is generally considered as presenting a description of conditions that will continually exist throughout the period during which the Gospel will be preached, and inasmuch as the world, the flesh and the Devil, the forces that are to blame for these conditions, will not be made impotent until Jesus comes to give victory over them all, we affirm again that the Post-Millennialist does not have a leg to stand on here, because Jesus teaches that the world will be partially saved and partially lost, hence, we see again that the Bible does not teach that the world is to be converted before Jesus comes.

2. *The Parable of the Tares.*

Now, let us consider the Parable of the Tares. Jesus is speaking again in Matthew 13:24-30:

"Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:

"But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.

"But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.

"So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field, from whence then hath it tares?"

"He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?"

"But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.

"Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, gather ye together first the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn."

Here is an interesting story. A man had a field in which he sowed good seed. Notice, please, that there isn't anything wrong with the seed. It is all good seed. But when the blade came up and the fruit was borne, there appeared tares along with the wheat. While men slept an enemy had sown them. What is to be done? Shall the tares be plucked out immediately so that only the good, genuine grain is left? Positively no! Leave them as they are until the harvest when they will be separated, the tares to be destroyed by fire and the wheat gathered into the storehouse.

The good seed here is the Gospel. The enemy is the Devil. As the result of his activities among men, tares have been sown, and as we look around we discover that the professing church is literally overrun with them. The false is scattered through the church. Those who have a profession without any real possession of Christ have become apparently more numerous in the professing church than those who have really been born again. What is to be done about this condition? They are to be left alone until harvest time when the great separation will take place.

It is evident that this separation will not take place until the coming of the Lord which is the time when we will be gathered unto Him, and since the counterfeit is to remain in the church along with the real until this time, the argument that the world is to be converted before Christ comes again is completely defeated.

3. *The Parable of the Mustard*
(Continued on page four)

A TESTIMONY ABOUT SWORD LITERATURE

From Inglewood, California, comes the following lovely letter which we greatly appreciate.

"January 7, 1944.

"Dear Publishers:

"I would like also to send a little testimonial to the blessings that have come to me through reading the many writings of Dr. Rice. I read the entire *Sword of the Lord* as soon as it comes. We take a half-dozen religious papers, but that is the best of all. The book on *Prayer* has revolutionized my prayer life and helped me to 'abide in Christ.' I first read the entire book carefully and then studied it, taking complete notes, that is expressing the blessed truths more briefly. I plan to give a series of lessons on it later that others may be blessed. I am also studying *Twelve Tremendous Themes*, and *God Remembered* and several others. They all repay careful study. Putting it in my own words helps me retain the truths."

"May God bless Dr. Rice and all his staff.

"Sincerely,
"Mrs. W. F. Zander."

Write For

COMPLETE BOOK CATALOG

Free on Request

SWORD OF THE LORD
PUBLISHERS

145 N. Hale St. Wheaton, Ill.

119 CONVERSIONS IN TWO WEEKS, COMPTON, CALIFORNIA

By Evangelist Hyman Appelman
The Holy Spirit blessed the First Baptist Church, Compton, California, with a record-breaking victory in the recent two weeks revival conducted by Evangelist Hyman Appelman. There were 182 additions, 101 of them as candidates for baptism. There were 18 other conversions. Dr. W. B. Harvey, the pastor, did a superlative, effective work in preparation for the campaign. Dr. Harvey has been pastor of the church since January, 1943. During that time there have been beyond 400 additions to the church. The Sunday School has doubled. The finances have trebled. The crowds Sunday morning and Sunday night are larger than any in the history of the church. This pastor's ministry is really making an impression for the Lord Jesus Christ on this town.

MINISTER AVAILABLE FOR PASTORATE

The editor of *The Sword of the Lord* knows a Baptist preacher available for a pastorate. He is in the prime of life, has had a very happy pastorate with one large rural church, lasting several years. The last year of his ministry there he baptized twenty-three people. His training was in Moody Bible Institute and Northwestern Bible and Missionary Training School. His character is well vouched for by other pastors and businessmen. He would be glad to come to get acquainted, with some revival services. He is a married man with a family.

If you would like to get in touch with our brother, address your letter to

"WISCONSIN PASTOR"

c/o The Sword of the Lord
145 North Hale Street
Wheaton, Illinois

GET SOMETHING!--YOU CAN!

Too many are saying: "I can't seem to get interested in BIBLE STUDY." Then you don't know about the enticing, fascinating, practical study system devised by Dr. Keith L. Brooks and published by American Prophetic League, Inc. To lead you into thrilling truths, the question method is used, blank spaces for the student's answers to be obtained by looking up references cited. These courses have made the Bible a new book to thousands. Get started at home NOW! Then teach your material to others. Special rates to classes.

Junior Bible Work.....	25¢	Gospel of Luke Course.....	50¢
Young Believer's Bible Work, a beginning's course for all.....	25¢	Book of Acts Course.....	50¢
Christian Character Course.....	25¢	X-Ray of Romans Course.....	50¢
Doctrinal Course.....	50¢	Phophetic Course.....	50¢
Gospel of John Course.....	50¢	Revelation Course.....	50¢
Gospel of Mathew Course.....	50¢	Genesis Course.....	50¢

For other courses, see our BOOK BULLETIN (Free)

Write at once and get started

AMERICAN PROPHETIC LEAGUE, INC.

Box BB, Eagle Rock Station, Los Angeles, California

BOOKS and PAMPHLETS

By JOHN R. RICE, D. D.

PRAYER—ASKING AND RECEIVING, cloth, 328 pages, 21 chapters, ...	\$1.50
TWELVE TREMENDOUS THEMES, cloth, 12 chapters Bible teaching	1.00
WHEN SKELETONS COME OUT OF THEIR CLOSETS! 11 full length evangelistic sermons, cloth.....	1.00
"AND GOD REMEMBERED . . ." 123 pages, cloth, six rich Bible sermons	.50
BOBBED HAIR, BOSSY WIVES and WOMEN PREACHERS, cloth, 91 pages, six chapters	.50

The Following Have Paper Covers

"AND GOD REMEMBERED . . ." 123 pages, same as above except paper binding	.25
5 copies \$1.00	
BIBLE FACTS ABOUT HEAVEN, 8 chapters, 67 pages	.25
5 copies \$1.00	
LODGES EXAMINED BY THE BIBLE, 88 pages, 9 chapters	.25
THE SOUL WINNER'S FIRE, 127 pages, 8 chapters	.20
6 copies \$1.00	
WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE MOVIES, 117 pages, 10 chapters	.50
WHAT'S WRONG WITH DANCE?, 45 pages.....	.35
JEWISH PERSECUTION AND BIBLE PROPHECIES, 45 pages	.15
BIBLE LESSONS ON REVELATION, 24 large two column pages	.15
THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST IN DANIEL, 24 large two column pages	.15

The Following 10c Booklets Usually Have Colored Paper, Colored Ink, Very Attractive. Most of Them Have 24 Extra Large Pages,

Some Up To 40 Pages

CAN A SAVED PERSON EVER BE LOST?	.10
HELL! WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT IT	.10
ALL HAVE SINNED	.10
THE VERBAL INSPIRATION OF THE BIBLE	.10
TOBACCO	.10
RELIGIOUS BUT LOST	.10
THE BACKSLIDER	.10
PETTING AND THE SCARLET SIN	.10
REBELLIOUS WIVES AND SLACKER HUSBANDS.....	.10
THE LAST JUDGMENT OF THE UNSAVED DEAD.....	.10
SUNDAY OR SABBATH, WHICH SHOULD CHRISTIANS OBSERVE?	.10
CHRIST'S LITERAL REIGN ON EARTH FROM DAVID'S THRONE AT JERUSALEM	.10

Large descriptive catalog sent free on request.

Order the above from

SWORD OF THE LORD PUBLISHERS
145 N. Hale, Wheaton, Ill.

A Converted Warless World Impossible ---

(Continued from page three)

Seed. The next parable for consideration is the Parable of the Mustard Seed. Here again are the words of Jesus as found in Matthew 13:31, 32:

"Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field:

"Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof."

Now, the Post-Millennialist tells us that this is a picture of the spreading of the Gospel during the Church Age. It was an infinitesimally small thing to begin with, but in the course of time, and through various processes it becomes incomparably great. The church that had such a small beginning grows in might and influence, and eventually sweeps everything in its path until, spreading over all the world, it gathers everything in its all inclusive grasp. This is a beautiful picture and somehow, I wish a real basis for it could be found in the Word of God. How nice it would be to be able to prove from the Scripture that the whole world would be converted and that the Christian Church would eventually come into its own to the extent that the whole world rests in its bosom. But, beloved, it just isn't so!

One thing that is generally overlooked in the passage is the reference to "the birds of the air" that "come and lodge in the branches thereof." What are these birds? Of what are they typical? We have the answer presented in this very chapter. In verse 19, we are told that the fowls of verse have reference to the "wicked." "...then cometh the wicked and catcheth away that which is sown." Now, the word translated, "fowls" in verse 4 is the same word that is translated "birds" in verse 32. It is the Greek word "peteinon" meaning, "flying, winged animals" are to be considered as types of the wicked one. Since these words are in the plural, they, no doubt, have reference not only to the wicked one himself, but to those who do his bidding, that is, his emissaries.

Since this is true (we have the interpretation of Jesus Himself) we have a strange picture indeed. To accept the teaching of the Post-Millennialists as to the tree, and the interpretation of Christ as to the birds, we would have to believe that a church that has conquered the whole world for God, and that has put down all forces of evil in its path, will in its final stages of complete victory, give permission to the emissaries of the wicked to rest in its bosom, thus, affording them shelter and lodging. What a paradox! Having defeated the forces of evil, taken them into their arms and give them succor? How unthinkable, and utterly preposterous!

I believe I can give you a better interpretation that that, and one which will be much more in keeping with all the facts in the case. To begin with, we must notice that it is not natural for a mustard seed to grow to such huge proportions indicated in this parable. A mustard tree is of comparatively small growth. Hence, the monstrous growth in the parable would be the same as "Jack's Beanstalk," nothing short of a monstrosity, an abnormal, unnatural thing. There is nothing glorious, and certainly no cause for rejoicing in a monstrosity. But this is just what we have pictured for us here. A church that had a small beginning and should have had a normal growth and come to a natural maturity, develops into a monstrosity, an unnat-

ural, unwieldy, abnormal thing. In fact, such is its abnormality that it leaves its proper, natural, God-given functions and becomes a place of abode for the emissaries of the opposition, the Devil.

Anyone who claims to be informed at all will have to admit that the picture just given is certainly in keeping with things as we know them today. In its awful degeneracy, the professing Church has become a place in which the servants of the evil one feel perfectly at home. Things have gone so far that modernists, agnostics, atheists, infidels and pagans of every brand are not only admitted to membership, but indeed, lauded and exalted in its councils, and on every hand, we see church members living in the vilest kind of sin—cursing, drinking, gambling, smoking, revelling, frequenting the theatre, the dance and the dives of the world. Oh, that men might see the actual status of things and repent, and turn from their wicked ways to look for the coming Saviour!

If this parable tells us that the world will be converted before Jesus comes, it also tells us that it will be a world in which the Devil and his crowd will feel completely at home, and since this is entirely out of keeping with the teaching of the Word of God, we know again, that the Post-Millennialists are wrong, and that our Lord does not have to wait until the world is converted to come again. Let us turn now to the next parable.

4. The Parable of the Leaven. The Scripture for this parable is found in Matthew 13:33:

"Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened."

What is leaven? The Post-Millennialists tell us that it is the Gospel. They also say that the lump is the world. Hence, they tell us that the parable illustrates the remarkable effectiveness of the Gospel in working its way into the world and so permeating it that it becomes marked with the characteristics of the Gospel. It is to them another picture of the conversion of the whole world through the preaching of the Gospel in this Age. Another lovely picture, to be sure, but as in all other such cases, one that is contrary to the teaching of the Word of God.

Where is the authority for saying that leaven represents the Gospel, or that the "lump" represents the world? Those who offer this interpretation of the parable have nothing but sheer guess work for a foundation. The Bible teaches something entirely different.

In First Corinthians 5:6, we learn that the "meal" or "lump" is the professing church. Let us turn to this passage for a moment: "Your glorying is not good; Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?"

"Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened."

Paul wrote these words to the Corinthian Church because of their terrible carnality. They had been guilty of glorying over gross sin. He describes this sin and the spirit of glorying on their part in view of the sin, as leaven, and tells them to purge it out. Why? In order that they might be a new lump. Notice how clearly the Scripture teaches that the lump here is the Corinthian Church. No where in the Bible is leaven spoken of as a good thing.

Under the Levitical Economy, when the Passover was celebrated, the leaven had to be entirely put out of the house.

In Matthew 16:6, Jesus tells His disciples to "beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees." Any clear understanding of the context will show that He had reference to the peculiar doctrines and practices of these groups. He warned His disciples of the ritualism and hypocrisy of the Pharisees, and the materialism and rationalism of the Sadducees. Then, so far as Jesus is concerned, leaven has reference to false and corrupt doctrines introduced into the Church.

Scripturally, leaven is false doctrine which has corrupted the Church down through the centuries and which will ultimately bring

about the condition described in the Letter to the Laodicean Church, when it will be spued out of God's mouth. Then, this parable teaches, that false doctrine, a "sour, corrupt, putrid and putrifying thing" would enter into the professing Church, hiding itself at first, and ultimately permeating the whole thing. Instead of teaching the doctrine of world conquest by the Gospel of Christ, it teaches that false doctrine will dominate the professing Church. Instead of proving that the world is to be converted before Christ comes, it proves that even the professing Church is to get worse and worse, instead of better and better. There is only one hope for it and that is the Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ!

5. The Parable of the Drag-Net. There is yet another parable to be considered. It is the parable of the Drag-Net, reference to which we have in Matthew 13:47-52:

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind:

"Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away."

"So shall it be at the end of the world (consummation of the age): the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just."

"And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

"Jesus saith unto them, Have ye understood all these things? They say unto him, Yea, Lord."

"Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is a householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old."

The net is the Gospel message in its influence, sweeping on through the age, and like a net, gathering into the professing Church, out of the troubled waters of the world, all sorts of men, good and bad.

At the end of the Age, a great separation will take place when the good will be taken from the bad. The good will be placed on one side and the bad on the other.

Please notice that all of this takes place at the end of the Age. There will be bad, or evil ones on earth at the end of the Age. The good will be taken away, but the bad will be cast away.

Once again we see that instead of the Bible teaching that the world will get better and better until righteousness covers the earth before Jesus comes, it teaches that even at the very end of this Age, there will be wickedness and wicked people on earth. Hence, the world is not to be converted before Christ comes.

6. "Shall I Find Faith on the Earth?" Continuing our consideration concerning the teaching of Christ we must consider *Christ's Question in Luke 18:8*:

"Nevertheless when the Son of Man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" What is the answer to this question? If you read it carefully and prayerfully, you will see that the construction demands a negative answer (negative particle in the Greek). What Jesus is saying (He is not asking a question, really, but rather, answering a question), is "...when the Son of Man cometh, He will not find faith in the earth." Some people will have faith, but only a small part, comparatively speaking. He tells us that faith will not have conquered the entire world. This is contrary to the teaching of the Post-Millennialist brethren, but it is entirely in accordance with the teaching of the Word of God!

7. "As it Was in the Days of Noah" Jesus had a great deal to say concerning the end of this Age. Among the important passages that are devoted to this subject is the one which gives a comparison between the days of Noah and the end of the Age. It is found in Luke 17:26, 27:

"And as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of Man."

"They did eat, they drank, they married, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all."

We are told that even as men were careless and indifferent to the message of the great preacher of righteousness, Noah; they will be careless and indifferent to the message of the Gospel preachers of the last days. The men of Noah's day are said to be a type of the men of the last days. Is it any wonder that God will have to punish men with the Great Tribulation?

Noah was faithful in the proclamation of the truth and in warning them of the coming judgment of God in the form of a terrible flood, but they paid little attention to him. They laughed and mocked him, saying, "He's unscientific. It has never rained in the past, and it won't in the future." I suppose they said: "The thing he refers to is unnatural and just can't happen, and anyhow, if there is a God, He wouldn't do such a terrible thing as Noah is predicting." They continued in their regular habits and scorned the message of God's prophet.

Then one day the sun was hidden behind the clouds, the mist began to fall upon the earth, the fountains of the great deep were opened and then the rain poured out upon the earth in great torrents. Men had called Noah a fool and had repudiated all that he had preached, but they soon found that he was the only man among all the men of his time who had any sense at all. He had given them the opportunity to repent and get right with God, but they had refused, so, when they saw the rain come and when that which had formerly seemed impossible was happening, men rushed to the ark that Noah had built, pounding upon it and crying for admission, but God had shut the door and they were too late!

"And the Lord said, My Spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years" (Gen. 6:3).

They went down, down, down, and Noah only, with his family, was on top. Oh, the tragedy of refusing to hear and heed the truth of God. But that is the way men are acting today. They ridicule the preacher of righteousness, and repudiate what he has to say. They have very little use for him, nor for his message. And, beloved, God says that this is a description of conditions in the last days. Is this a picture of world conversion? Is there any semblance of a Gospel victory here? Just the contrary! Instead of getting better, the world is, and will continue, to be getting worse. It will not be converted before Jesus comes.

For the last point of my message, I would like for you to turn again with me to the Epistles where we have a remarkable word from the Apostle Paul:

VII. THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT WHEN CHRIST COMES, IT WILL BE IN JUDGMENT!

The Post-Millennialists tell us that the world will be waiting for Him with outstretched arms, that righteousness will prevail over the entire world, and that the whole world will be waiting for Him. Would to God this were true! Keeping these things in mind, let us look at I Thessalonians 1:7-10:

"And to you who are troubled, rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels,

"In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

"Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

"When He shall come to be glorified in His saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day."

Please turn with me to the nineteenth chapter of Revelation and read from verse eleven through 21:

"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war."

"His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself."

"And he was clothed with a ves-

ture dipped in blood: and his name in called The Word of God."

"And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean."

"And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God."

"And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

"And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God;

"That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great."

The grandeur and majesty of the picture leaves us almost speechless, especially as those of us who are saved contemplate our part in that glorious day, but as we turn our minds to the consideration of the teaching here concerning judgment, we become aware of the fact that these passages, together with many others that could be mentioned, teach that the world certainly will not be awaiting the coming of the Saviour with outstretched arms. Nothing of the kind! There is not any picture of world conversion here!

Christ is not coming to a peaceful world, and He is not coming to be acclaimed King by an expectant world populace. He is coming to throw down Anti-Christ, and to destroy the forces of Hell. He will find a world ravaged by hate, war and sin. He will find pestilence and disease, inidclity and unbelief, a lukewarm church, and professors who do not possess eternal life! He will find a God-less, unregenerate, apostate, selfish, pleasure-mad, blasphemous, adulterous generation. He will see indecency and shame, and He will find that men will have no love in their hearts for God! He is coming to destroy this world! In its place He will set up on the earth, in spite of man, a Kingdom of Righteousness.

In the light of all this evidence from the Word of God, can you possibly say that one thousand years of Millennium will take place before Jesus comes again? Surely, if we were to believe this we would be of all men most miserable!

Beloved, once again I say, the Bible teaches that Jesus is coming before the thousand year literal reign. In fact, we are told that He may come any time. Then, let us give earnest heed to the words found in Matthew 25:13:

"Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of Man cometh."

Jesus tells us to watch, and that for a purpose. He never would have urged this responsibility upon us if there wasn't a good reason. He is coming soon, therefore, watch. We know not the day nor the hour, but we do know that He is coming. . . . therefore, **WATCH!** Jesus is not waiting for the world to be converted before He comes back to this old earth again, and neither am I, and neither should you.

Dear friend, if He should come tonight, are you ready? Those of you who have listened to me to-night have heard enough of the Word of God to know that it teaches Jesus is coming soon. Would you be ready if He should come to-night? Would joy, or sorrow, be your portion if He should come and find you just as you are now? Do you look forward to His coming? Are you anxiously awaiting the day? Will you be with Him for eternity? These are the questions which you must answer tonight. Will you allow God's Spirit to search your heart while we pray, and will you yield to His pleading invitation to trust Him as your own personal Saviour, if you haven't already made that decision? Let Him, Jesus, God's own Son, and the Coming Saviour, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords into your heart just now!

500 TRACTS A YEAR

Any Christian applying to the Scripture Witness League for membership who promises to prayerfully distribute no less than 500 tracts a year will receive the same postpaid Free. The membership dues is \$1.00 a year. Send for free samples and also a new VICTORY tract for service men.

SCRIPTURE WITNESS LEAGUE
2011 Wellington Ave. Chicago, Ill.